**Poor Management of ONGC**

4053. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC is not able to properly manage companies like the MRPL and other acquisition;

(b) whether it is also a fact that after the initial attention given to MRPL, ONGC has not given its due attention and investments, etc.;

(c) whether ONGC lost interest immediately after the intial publicity about new acquisitions;

(d) what steps will be taken by Government to ensure that there is a longer attention span by top management of ONGC on its various acquisition and investments;

(e) the reasons behind this short attention syndrome on part of ONGC; and

(f) the corrective measures proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) No Sir. In fact MRPL achieved a turnaround in the very first year after becoming subsidiary of ONGC in F.Y. 2003-04 and made profits, the details of which are reflected hereunder:—

| F.Y. | Profit/(Loss) Rs. Crore |
|---|---|
| 2001-02 (pre-ONGC) | (492.47) |
| 2002-03 (pre-ONGC) | (411.81) |
| 2003-04 | 459.41 |
| 2004-05 | 879.75 |

(b) to (f) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

**Commercial production of CBM in Damodar valley**

†4054. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) what is the present status of the research work of coal bed methane in the Damodar river valley in Jarkhand;

(b) by when the commercial use of methane is likely to be commenced; and

(c) whether Government propose to allow private sector to convert coal bed methane into CNG and for its marketing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The Government has signed five contracts for exploration of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) in Damodar river valley in Jharkhand. Exploration activities in respect of 3 blocks are continuing, whereas in case of 2 blocks, grant of Petroleum Exploration Licenses (PELs) is awaited.

(b) Commercial production in some of the blocks for which contracts have been signed is expected to commence in 2007-08.

(c) Under the Contracts, the contractor has the freedom to sell CBM within India to customers on commercial principles and at market determined prices. Therefore, the Government has no role under the contracts in determining consumers. There is no restriction on the contractors to convert CBM into CNG should they find this commercially viable.

**Risks involved in global expansion**

4055. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the India and China have expressed concern over the risks to global expansion emanating from the surge in oil prices in the international markets and the consequent growing economic balances;

~~(b) if so, the details thereof~~; and

(c) the decision taken to remove such roadblocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) A Memorandum for enhancing Cooperation in the field of oil and natural gas between the National Development & Reforms Commission of the Peoples' Republic